GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:187
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
SPURIOUS PESTICIDES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of fake fertilizers is costing farmers in the country Rs.50,000 crore as reported in Statesman dated 16th January, 2006;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has any check on the firms manufacturing fake fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): The question refers to news item which appeared in the Statesman in its issue dated 16/01/2006. The said news item relates to spurious pesticides and not fake fertilizers. Therefore, the reply, presuming the issue as relating to spurious pesticide is given in the Annexed statement.

ANNEXED

(a) & (b): No such estimates are available with the Government.

(c) & (d): With the objective of having stringent check on the quality of pesticides being manufactured and sold in the country, Government of India enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 and framed rules there under. The Act provides for the mandatory requirement of manufacturing license by each manufacturer/dealer of pesticides to be issued by the State Government concerned, in addition to the grant of registration by the Registration Committee. Registration is granted by the Registration Committee to any pesticide only after satisfying itself regarding the efficacy and safety thereof.

The enforcement of the various provision of the Act mainly rests with the State Governments. The Act provides for four important functionaries for this purpose viz. Licensing Officer, Insecticides Inspector and Insecticides Analyst and Appellate Authority.

Insecticide Inspector is responsible for drawal of pesticide samples from manufacturers and dealers. These samples are analysed in Pesticide Testing laboratories (SPTLs/RPTLs) by the analysts. Failing samples are the basis for initiation of prosecution proceedings against offenders.

For testing of samples, 19 States/UT have set up 46 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs). Central Government have also set up Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) for augmenting the effort of the States on analysis of pesticides samples as also the Central Insecticides Laboratory perform the statutory function of referral analysis for prosecution cases.

Adequate penal provisions also exist under the Insecticides Act, 1968 for punishment to manufacturer/sellers of misbranded/spurious pesticides.

Total number of pesticides samples analysed and found sub-standard in State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) during last three years are as under:-

Year	Samples analyzed	Found sub-standard
2000 - 03	43595	1558
2003 - 04	40174	1446
2004 - 05	40617	1441

Further, the number of samples of pesticides analysed and found sub-standard in Regional Pesticides Testing laboratories during last three years are as under:

Year	Samples analyzed	Found sub-standard
2000 – 03	1783	397
2003 – 04	1926	306
2004 – 05	2281	314

As per information received from State/UT Governments, the action taken against the manufacturers/dealers of misbranded samples during the said period are as under:-

Year	Prosecution Launched	Judgement Obtained	License Suspended	Convicted Cancelled
2002-03	731	205	232	497	19
2003-04	591	115	160	70	26
2004-05	739	235	241	617	116

Further, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has also constituted a Task Force to monitor the quality of pesticides being manufactured and sold in the country through deployment of Central Insecticides Inspectors for drawing samples of pesticides from manufacturer/dealers etc. against whom specific complaints regarding supply of misbranded and spurious pesticides have been received.